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Text of remarks by Dr. Thomas O. Paine, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, on the presentation of a moon rock to the United Nations, July 20, 1970.

Mr. Secretary General; Mr. President and Representatives to the Security Council; Mr. Chairman and Representatives to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:

On behalf of the President of the United States of America, I am happy to present to the United Nations the UN Flag that was carried to the Moon and back by our Apollo 11 astronauts -- Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin Aldrin, who are here with us today -- and with it a sample of the lunar surface.

It was one year ago that a universal dream of mankind was fulfilled: the lunar landing vehicle, Eagle, came to rest on the dry bed of the Sea of Tranquility, and the first representative of Planet Earth stepped out on another world, the Moon. The flag they left behind on the lunar surface affirmed: "We came in peace for all mankind."

To commemorate that historic occasion, President Nixon deemed it appropriate on the anniversary of the landing to present to this world organization this Flag and Moon Stone for permanent possession and display by the United Nations. It is a symbol of the achievement of many people and nations in the first exploration of the Moon. For, although the United States of America made the final breakthrough to this historic landing, it is truly an event prepared by the genius of mankind from many lands over many generations.

What the full significance of Apollo will be to the world of the future, no one can yet predict. We must await the verdict of history. But as we continue to learn and to explore, I am inclined to think that our first moon landing may some day be thought of as the turning point when man first demonstrated that he can open new

worlds, where eventually exciting new extraterrestrial societies will be founded. Mankind will move onward to settle and colonize other worlds, and the United Nations will encompass new territories, if not new dimensions.

While this is still in the future, we must remember that it is not much more than a decade since our Nation undertook the exploration of space, and less than a decade since its sights were firmly set on the Moon. The Congressional legislation which established the United States space program on October 1, 1958, and which subsequently directed our efforts, declared as our national purpose that activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind; and that the United States would cooperate with other nations and groups of nations in the exploration of space and in the peaceful application of the knowledge gained therefrom.

Our country has been deeply gratified at the excellent work done in this area by the UN -- and particularly, by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Special mention should be made of the conclusion under UN auspices of a treaty reserving the Moon and other celestial bodies exclusively for peaceful purposes and providing that outer space is not subject to national appropriation. Another important agreement is that which relates to assistance to and return of astronauts and space objects. These actions by the United Nations reflect, reaffirm and strengthen the policies of international cooperation and mutual benefit that are basic to our program.

Therefore, it is especially appropriate that the United Nations, which has thus contributed so positively to the peaceful uses of outer space and has worked so energetically to establish peace and goodwill on our own planet, now be the custodian of this Flag and Moon Stone. It is with the greatest solemnity, Mr. Secretary General, that I present these historical artifacts in the name of the President of the United States and all my fellow citizens.

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